SYSTEM, DEVICE, AND METHOD FOR MAINTAINING COMMUNICATION SESSIONS IN A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM

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CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION(S)

The present application may be related to the following commonly owned United States patent application, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference in its entirety: 09/747,436

10   United States Patent Application No. ~~XX/XXX,XXX~~ entitled SYSTEM, DEVICE, AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING NETWORK ACCESS IN A COMMUNICATION SYSTEM, filed on even date herewith in the names of Franco Travostino and Robert L. Myers.

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates generally to communication systems, and more particularly to maintaining communication sessions in a communication

20   system.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

25   In a typical wireless communication system, wireless terminal equipment (TE) devices access a host computer through various access point (AP) devices. The AP devices communicate with the TE devices using a wireless communication protocol, and communicate with the host computer using some other protocol, such as a local area network (LAN) protocol. Each

30   communication protocol is typically composed of various protocol layers in what is often referred to as a protocol stack. The protocol layers are typically implemented in software, and require certain processing resources as well as certain memory resources (e.g., for the storage of state information and data). The AP devices typically support and implement the full wireless

35   communication protocol stack, and therefore the AP devices are typically complex devices that require substantial processing and memory resources.